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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FINAL DEFENDANT SENTENCED IN FATAL CARMICHAEL ARSON

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that Truong Quang Quach, 34, of Sacramento, was sentenced to five years in prison by U.S. District Court Judge Garland E. Burrell for his role in assisting the arsonists responsible for the January 7, 1997, firebombing of the residence located at 6100 Merry Lane, Carmichael. Quach is the fifth and final defendant to be sentenced for this arson which resulted in the death of a child.

This case was investigated by the United States Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office.

According to AUSA Ken Melikian and AUSA Steve Lapham, the home which was firebombed was occupied by two brothers, a sister, and the sister's three children. Nine-year-old Hien Tran died as a result of the fire caused by the firebombing, and her uncle, Duc Tran, suffered third degree burns over more than 30 percent of his body. Hien Tran's other uncle, Tri Tran, was also injured when he attempted to rescue the little girl from her burning bedroom.

In June 1999, Tanh Huu Lam pled guilty to arranging this firebombing of the Carmichael residence. In September 1999, United States District Court Judge William B. Shubb sentenced Lam to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release. In April 2002, Trung Thanh Pham pled guilty to leading the effort to firebomb the residence. In February, 2003, he was also sentenced to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release. In January, 2004, Tu Minh Truong pled guilty to participating in the effort to firebomb the residence. In June, 2004, he was also sentenced to a term of life imprisonment without the possibility of release.

In January 2004, Quoc Phu Pham (no relation to Trung Thanh Pham) pled guilty to participating in the effort to firebomb the residence. In May 2004, he received a reduced sentence of 17 years in prison because he cooperated with the authorities in the investigation of this case.

According to court documents, at some time prior to December 1996, Lam hired Trung Pham to kill Tri Tran. Lam paid Trung Pham approximately \$2,000 in cash to kill Tran with the understanding that after Tran was dead Lam would pay Trung Pham an additional sum of money.

In his effort to kill Tran for Lam, and with the Lam's approval, Trung Pham and Quoc Pham made two separate and unsuccessful attempts to shoot Tran as Tran was driving home from work. Tu Truong joined these two men in the second attempt.

After these shootings failed to kill Tran, the same three men, with Lam's approval, set Tran's house on fire at approximately 2:40 a.m. on January 7, 1997. Trung Pham doused the front porch with gasoline while his accomplices threw firebombs through a front window.

Although he did not participate in the actual arson, Truong Quach received his five year sentence for the assistance he rendered after the arson. Knowing that the arson had been set on behalf of Tanh Lam, Quach assisted Lam in arranging for the delivery of \$3,000 in cash to the lead arsonist Trung Pham. And shortly thereafter, Quach lied to a federal agent by falsely stating that he knew nothing about the fatal arson.

A copy of this news release is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home>, select Press Releases.

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